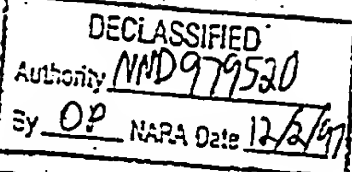


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S E C R E T SENSITIVE/HANDLE VIA VOYAGER CHANNELS

PEKING 117 01 NOVEMBER 1978

TO : SECRETARY KISSINGER
 FROM : GEORGE BUSH

RZF : WASH 122

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO RECEIVED ME AT 3 P.M. TODAY (NOV. 1). I MADE THE ORAL PRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED, LEAVING HIM A COPY OF THE TEXT OF REFTEL'S PARAS 2-7. I MADE AN ORAL PRESENTATION OF POINTS IN PARA 8 BUT DID NOT LEAVE A TEXT.

2. IN REGARD TO THE POINTS IN PARAS 2-8, CHIAO OFFERED THIS INITIAL RESPONSE, PROMISING A CONSIDERED RESPONSE LATER: - YOUR SIDE HAS PROPOSED A DRAFT JOINT PRESS STATEMENT, WHICH WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE, AND OUR SIDE HAS PUT FORWARD A DRAFT THAT THE TWO SIDES HAVE NOT AGREED UPON. (AFTER I POINTED OUT THAT THE US SIDE HAD NOW PUT FORWARD NOT ONE BUT TWO DRAFTS, CHIAO CONTINUED), YOU HAVE PROPOSED TWO DRAFTS AND WE HAVE PROPOSED ONE. I AM SURE THAT USLO CHIEF BUSH WOULD CERTAINLY BE AWARE THAT WE CANNOT AGREE TO THE REACTION OF YOUR SIDE TODAY TO OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGE.

- THEREFORE, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO ENVISAGE ANY AMENDMENTS BY US TO THE DRAFT JOINT PRESS STATEMENT THAT YOU SUBMITTED LAST TIME BECAUSE, AS I SAID PREVIOUSLY, IT IS NOT A PRESS STATEMENT OF A NORMAL NATURE.

- AS FOR WHAT WAS MENTIONED RECENTLY ABOUT A DESCRIPTIVE PRESS COMMUNIQUE OF A NORMAL NATURE, YOU MENTIONED THAT YOUR SIDE DID NOT FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES. I MUST FRANKLY SAY THAT OUR SIDE MUST EVEN LESS FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES, BECAUSE WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO RESPECT FACTS, AND THAT IS HOW IT IS.

- THAT IS JUST AN INITIAL IMPRESSION. I WILL HAVE TO STUDY THE MATTER FURTHER.

3. REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT

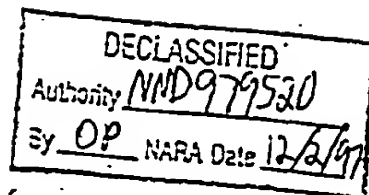
***** HHSR COMMENT *****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, RODMAN, MCFARLANE

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AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE ADVANCE PARTY, CHIAO CHARACTERIZED THESE BOTH AS "JUST TECHNICAL MATTERS," AND SAID HE DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY PROBLEM. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE ADVANCE PARTY, THE CHINESE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE MANY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED. HE SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE A REPLY TO ALL ASPECTS OF MY PRESENTATION (COMMUNIQUE, TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE PARTY) AFTER FURTHER STUDY.

4. THAYER ACCOMPANIED ME. SAME CHINESE WERE WITH CHIAO AS BEFORE EXCEPT NANCY TANG INTERPRETED, IN ABSENCE OF MRS. SHIH, AND SUI CHU-MEI WAS ADDED AS A NOTETAKER.

5. COMMENT: CHIAO SEEMED QUITE TIRED TODAY AND EVEN SEEMED SLIGHTLY TESTY IN EXPLAINING TO NANCY TANG ON TWO OCCASIONS WHAT HE WISHED TO HAVE INTERPRETED TO ME.

WARM REGARDS.

GEORGE BUSH

BT